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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 15 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the declaration by the Presidency of the European Union on the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, issued on 9 January 1997 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the agenda item entitled 'Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and special representatives', and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. N. H. BIEGMAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Declaration by the Presidency of the European Union on the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia issued at Brussels on 9 January 1997

The European Union has noted with appreciation the report of the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Mr. Felipe González, and fully endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

The European Union attaches particular importance to the conclusion in that report that the results of the elections on 17 November reflect the will of the majority of the citizens of Serbia and that the coalition Zajedno has won the local elections in 13 cities, as well as in 8 municipalities and the Assembly of the City of Belgrade.

The Union notes the letter of Foreign Minister Mulitinović to the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, but calls upon the authorities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and in particular upon President Milosević of Serbia, to accept fully the conclusions and recommendations of the Personal Representative and to act upon them without delay.

Following the conclusions of the European Council of Dublin, the European Union furthermore calls upon the authorities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to enter into a constructive dialogue with the opposition and to ensure the viability and availability of the independent media.

The European Union reiterates its appeal to the authorities in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to refrain from the use of force against peaceful demonstrators and journalists.

Recalling its declaration of 9 April 1996 setting out, inter alia, the conditions for the development of good relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the European Union reaffirms its position that only reform directed towards full democratization and liberalization of the political and economic system, in dialogue with the opposition, as well as respect for human rights and for the rights of minorities will bring a solution to the present problems and allow for the full integration of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia into the international community.

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Fifty-second session
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 15 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the declaration by the Presidency of the European Union on the Central African Republic, issued on 10 January 1997 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. N. H. BIEGMAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Declaration by the Presidency of the European Union on the Central African Republic issued at Brussels on 10 January 1997

The European Union is extremely concerned at the serious situation of instability currently reigning in the Central African Republic. It would like all parties in Bangui to reach a peaceful solution.

With this in view, the Union fully supports the mediation efforts initiated by the Presidents of Gabon, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali and led on the spot by General Amadou Toumani Touré.

The Union calls upon all parties not to endanger the democratic process begun three years ago in the Central African Republic and to respect fully the principles of the rule of law and good governance, which are essential for the development of the country and its relationship with the European Union.

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MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 23 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The delegation of Lebanon wishes to convey to you its great indignation at the contempt for international public opinion that is shown in the letter dated 2 January 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/769-S/1997/6). In it, Israel seeks to invoke the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law in order to characterize attacks made against it as terrorism. In so doing, it ignores and attempts to make public opinion overlook the fact that it is forcibly occupying Lebanese territory in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law and that it is persisting in its occupation despite the numerous resolutions adopted by various United Nations organs calling upon it to withdraw.

Our indignation is increased by the fact that the letter also tries to invoke the Declaration on terrorism approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 while ignoring the Organization's numerous resolutions on the right of peoples to resist occupation, in particular General Assembly resolution 50/6 of 24 October 1995, by which the Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, and General Assembly resolution 46/51 of 9 December 1991. The letter also seeks to ignore the fact that the forcible occupation of the territory of another State is the most serious form of organized international terrorism and violates all the human rights covenants and the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Under international law and in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council, particularly its resolution 425 (1978), it is Israel that is the aggressor State and one that has been occupying the territory of a neighbouring State for 19 years. In the resolution in question, the Security Council calls upon Israel to end its occupation, to cease its military actions against Lebanese territorial integrity and to withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese territory.

The actions that the representative of Israel refers to as acts of terrorism are acts of resistance to occupation that take place inside Lebanese territory and are directed against military elements of the occupation forces. They are a legitimate expression of the right to self-defence enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and they have the goal of liberating national territory from foreign occupation. The history of modern States is based for the most part on wars of resistance and liberation.

Lebanon has expressed its readiness to ensure security and the rule of law in southern Lebanon immediately on the withdrawal by Israel of its occupying forces in implementation of resolution 425 (1978), and this has been conveyed by its senior representatives in the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council and in many official statements issued by the Lebanese Government.

It is the maintenance of the Israeli occupation that is the basic reason for the existing tension in the area and that has caused so many human tragedies and so much destruction and suffering for the Lebanese. The logic of Israeli security policy has demonstrably failed to achieve security and stability in the area and on the two sides of the border.

Action in accordance with international legitimacy is the only way to ensure stability, security and peace for the peoples of the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative